Decline in rice production

1172. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of rice in the country has declined;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last five years and reasons for the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rice consumption in the country is increasing; if so, the details in the regard;

(d) whether in future the country may face shortage of rice to such an extent that it will have to import the rice; and

(e) what is being done by Government to increase the productivity of rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Table below gives the production of rice in the country for the past five years, *i.e.* from 2002-03 to 2006-07:

Year	Production of Rice (Million Tonnes)
2002-03	71.82
2003-04	88.53
2004-05	83.13
2005-06	91.79
2006-07*	92.76

*4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

Production of rice in the country shows increasing trend during the last five years. Year 2002-03 was a drought year and during 2004-05, rainfall from the shouth-west monsoon was 13% less than its long period average which affected the rice production.

(c) On the basis of the monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India, 2004-05" and the population projections given by the Office of the Registrar General of India, the consumption of rice in the country including seed, feed and wastage was estimated at 85.77 million tonnes during 2004-05 which rose to 87.01 million tonnes during 2005-06 and to 88.25 million tonnes during 2006-07.

(d) and (e) India is an exporter of rice. However, an Integrated Cereals Development Programme in rice based cropping systems has been under implementation since October 2000 to promote production of rice. In order to increase the production of rice further, recently a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" (NFSM) has also been launched in the country from 2007-08. It aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.* by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been conducting research to increase the productivity and production of rice in the country. So far more than 740 varieties and 29 hybrids have been developed for different ecologies.